PHARMACISTS' BULLETIN

NOVA SCOTIA SENIORS' PHARMACARE PROGRAM

PHARMACARE

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

December 2006

Vol. #06-14

DECEMBER BULLETIN

Boarding Transportation & Ostomy Program

The Canadian Cancer Society-Nova Scotia Division (CCS-NSD) has administered the Boarding Transportation and Ostomy (BTO) Program on behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Health for several years. *Effective April 1, 2007*, the administration of the BTO program will be fully transitioned to the Department of Health. Medavie Blue Cross will assume the administration of BTO on behalf of the government.

In the interim, claims for ostomy supplies can be submitted using the same electronic claims system used for other Pharmacare Programs. *Effective December 1, 2006*, ostomy supplies previously invoiced to the CCS-NSD should be submitted electronically using clients Nova Scotia Health Card. Eligibility for the program and approved benefits will be confirmed at the time of claim submission. Payment for the ostomy supply claims will be included in the regular biweekly payment.

Any concerns or questions related to billings are to be directed to 429-6565 or toll-free at 1-800-544-6191.

Correction

In the November Pharmacists' Bulletin Vol. #06-13, two commercial hydrocortisone preparations were inadvertently included in the list of delisted hydrocortisone preparations. The following preparations are insured under the Pharmacare Programs:

DIN	PRODUCT	MFR
00716685	Cortoderm 0.5% Oint	TAR
00716693	Cortoderm 1% Oint	TAR

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Please do not hesitate to contact the Pharmacare Programs if you have any questions or concerns.

New Nurse Practitioner

The following nurse practitioner has been added to this group of prescribers.

Dana McNamara-Morse (License #726489)

Please retain for your reference. See the Nova Scotia Formulary for Pharmacare benefits which can be insured if prescribed by nurse practitioners.

INCLUDED WITH THIS BULLETIN:

- **Interchangeable Products & New Product** *effective December 15, 2006*
- **Pharmacare Programs 2007 Payment Schedule**
- **Important Notice – Continued Care Prescriptions & Pharmacist-Prescribed Benefits**

** IMPORTANT **

ISSUES WITH CLAIMS FOR CONTINUED CARE PRESCRIPTIONS AND PHARMACIST-PRESCRIBED BENEFITS

A recent review of Pharmacare claims for continued care prescriptions (CCPs) and pharmacist-prescribed benefits has revealed some significant issues which will result in audit penalties if not rectified immediately. Please review, reverse and resubmit claims as appropriate.

CCP Issues

Claims for CCPs must have an "EA" in the Intervention/Exception code field. If an "EA" is not in this field, the claim will appear to be for a pharmacist-prescribed benefit (see below) and will be reversed by Pharmacare to the pharmacy unless the claim is for a benefit in one of the three ATC categories (AeroChambers®, diabetes supplies and ostomy supplies) for which pharmacists are allowed to prescribe. A reversal will appear on the pharmacy's next payment statement. The claim can be resubmitted by the pharmacy with an "EA" in the Intervention/Exception Code field for payment, if the claim should have been for a CCP.

The Pharmacists' Bulletin Vol. #06-07 (May 2006) provides detailed information on the criteria for coverage and claims submission requirements for CCPs. Claims which do not follow the criteria for coverage will result in audit penalties. The following is a list of the main issues which were noted in the recent review of CCPs:

- The medication being continued was a benzodiazepine or a drug monitored by the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program.
- The prescriber of the original prescription being extended was not licensed with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. Instead, the prescriber was a nurse practitioner, dentist or optometrist.
- The medication being continued was not for a chronic or long-term condition.
- The prescription was extended though a CCP more than once.
- The amount of the medication provided was greater than the previous amount prescribed or one month (30 days), whichever was lesser.

Issues with Pharmacist-Prescribed Benefits

Claims for pharmacist-prescribed benefits must be for a benefit in one of the following three ATC categories in the Nova Scotia Formulary:

- R07AX01 Miscellaneous Respiratory Products (AeroChambers®)
- V04CA02 Glucose (Diabetes Supplies listed in the Miscellaneous Section)
- V07AS01 Stomi Equipment (Ostomy Supplies listed in the Miscellaneous Section)

The Pharmacists' Bulletin Vol. #06-07 (May 2006) provides detailed information on the criteria for coverage and claims submission requirements for Pharmacist-prescribed benefits. Claims which do not follow the criteria for coverage will result in audit penalties. The following two issues were specifically noted in the recent review of claims for pharmacist-prescribed benefits:

- The claim was for a benefit not in one of the above three ATC categories. In fact, more than half of the pharmacist-prescribed claims were for benefits other than those in these three ATC categories. It is likely that these claims were actually for CCPs (see above), but without an "EA" in the Intervention/Exception code field, they appear to be pharmacist-prescribed benefits and will be reversed accordingly.
- A minimum of 30 days supply was not being prescribed for patients already established on that supply.

INTERCHANGEABLE PRODUCTS ADDED TO NOVA SCOTIA FORMULARY

Effective December 15, 2006

EXISTING CATEGORIES:

Note: For those products with benefit status under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs, the existing MAC will apply.

	DIN	Product	MFR	Prescriber	Benefit Status
ACYCLOVIR 200mg Tab	02285959	Novo-Acyclovir	NOP	DR NP	SFC
ACYCLOVIR 400mg Tab	02285967	Novo-Acyclovir	NOP	DR NP	SFC
ACYCLOVIR 800mg Tab	02285975	Novo-Acyclovir	NOP	DR NP	SFC
ALENDRONATE 70mg Tab	02286335	Gen-Alendronate	GPM	DR NP	E
	02284006	pms-Alendronate-FC	PMS	DR NP	E
FAMCICLOVIR 125mg Tab	02278081	pms-Famciclovir	PMS	DR NP	SFC
FAMCICLOVIR 250mg Tab	02278103	pms-Famciclovir	PMS	DR NP	SFC
FAMCICLOVIR 500mg Tab	02278111	pms-Famciclovir	PMS	DR NP	SFC
LEVETIRACETAM 250mg Tab	02285924	Apo-Levetiracetam	APX	DR	E
LEVETIRACETAM 500mg Tab	02285932	Apo-Levetiracetam	APX	DR	E
LEVETIRACETAM 750mg Tab	02285940	Apo-Levetiracetam	APX	DR	E
METRONIDAZOLE 500mg Cap	00783137	pms-Metronidazole	PMS		not insured
MIRTAZAPINE 30mg Tab	02286629	Apo-Mirtazapine	APX	DR	SFC
RANITIDINE 15mg/mL O/L	02280833	Apo-Ranitidine	APX	DR NP	SFC
SOTALOL 160mg Tab	02257858	Sandoz Sotalol	SDZ	DR	SF
WARFARIN 3mg Tab	02287498	Gen-Warfarin	GPM	DR	SFC
WARFARIN 6mg Tab	02287501	Gen-Warfarin	GPM	DR	SFC

NEW CATEGORIES:

Note: Until a MAC price is established, AAC will be paid for those products with benefit status under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs. These categories will appear in the next publication of the MAC List.

	DIN	Product	MFR	Prescriber	Benefit Status
AZITHROMYCIN POS 100mg/5mL	02274388	pms-Azithromycin	PMS	DR NP	E
	02223716	Zithromax	PFI	DR NP	E
AZITHROMYCIN POS 200mg/5mL	02274396	pms-Azithromycin	PMS	DR NP	E
	02223724	Zithromax	PFI	DR NP	E
CILAZAPRIL 5mg &	02284987	Apo-Cilazapril/HCTZ	APX	DR	SF
HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE 12.5mg Tab	02181479	Inhibace Plus	HLR	DR	SF

	DIN	Product	MFR	Prescriber	Benefit Status
CYCLOSPORINE 50mg Cap	02150662	Neoral	NVR	DR	E
	02247074	Sandoz Cyclosporine	SDZ	DR	E
FENTANYL 25mcg/hr Patch	01937383	Duragesic	JAN	DR	E
	02249391	RAN-Fentanyl	RBX	DR	E
FENTANYL 50mcg/hr Patch	01937391	Duragesic	JAN	DR	E
	02249413	RAN-Fentanyl	RBX	DR	E
FENTANYL 75mcg/hr Patch	01937405	Duragesic	JAN	DR	E
	02249421	RAN-Fentanyl	RBX	DR	E
FENTANYL 100mcg/hr Patch	01937413	Duragesic	JAN	DR	E
	02249448	RAN-Fentanyl	RBX	DR	E
VENLAFAXINE 37.5mg Cap	02237279	Effexor XR	WAY	DR NP	SFC
	02275023	Novo-Venlafaxine XR	NOP	DR NP	SFC
VENLAFAXINE 75mg Cap	02237280	Effexor XR	WAY	DR NP	SFC
	02275031	Novo-Venlafaxine XR	NOP	DR NP	SFC
VENLAFAXINE 150mg Cap	02237282	Effexor XR	WAY	DR NP	SFC
	02275058	Novo-Venlafaxine XR	NOP	DR NP	SFC

NEW PRODUCTS

The following product is a "New Listings to the Nova Scotia Formulary" *effective December 15, 2006.* The benefit status within the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs is indicated.

DIN	PRODUCT	MFR	PRESCRIBER	BENEFIT STATUS
02287528	Gen-Warfarin 7.5mg Tab	GPM	DR	SFC